

Arlington Conservation Commission  
Minutes  
August 6, 2015

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the second floor conference room, of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Nathaniel Stevens, Curt Connors, David White, Janine White, Mike Nonni, Susan Chapnick, Charles Tirone and Associate Member Catherine Garnett. Associate Eileen Coleman of the Commission was not present. Also present were Bruce and Susan Whettle, Rich Kirby of LEC, Steven Campbell, David Azanow, Christine Ritzkowski, and Megan Burns.

7:30pm – Commission Business:

Commission discussed notice of **Giant Hogweed** at McClennan Park, reported to Ms. Beckwith. Giant Hogweed is toxic and causes burns on-contact. Ms. Beckwith will make a site visit to confirm. If it is Giant Hogweed, it needs to be removed from the park.

7:45pm **Notice of Intent** – 86 Coolidge Rd, deck and renovations

Rich Kirby presented a new wetland delineation line in this proposal. The line has moved closer to the house than in the older submission (from 2010). The applicant is proposing to expand the deck on the rear of the house and to place one footing at the back corner nearer the wetlands. The post will be set 2 feet back from rear edge of deck shown on the plan.

The wetland line needs to be confirmed at a site walk or by Ms. Beckwith. The driveway construction was started and then some of it was removed at the request of Ms. Beckwith. The proposed is what is there at present, it is perc pack, with a rubble wall perimeter.

Ms. Garnett observed the site photographs and thought that much more stabilization was necessary at the end of the drive. Mr. Kirby calculated that this surface has a 1 in 7 slope.

The base of the new stairs will be at the end of the driveway, the footing of the stairs still has not been designed, but the contractor will comply with building dept requirements.

Ms. Garnett suggested adding smaller stone sized to catch water, like a water bar. Also to prevent any street drainage from entering the driveway and adding to this runoff. Mr. Campbell answered that, while not on the plan, the curb rises up from the street before the driveway slopes down toward the backyard.

Mr. Tirone requested that the applicant file for a variance request since the new footing is within 25 feet of the wetland. He also asked for a schematic for the edge of the driveway. He asked that the plan be updated to show the erosion control line, the

position of the post/footing, and the driveway detail.

Ms. Ritzkowski lives below the subject property and has observed the erosion and water coming off this property and is very concerned. A tree fell onto her property from above, she has photos and will submit them to the Commission. There is a lot of water flowing from above down to her property and they have French drains sized to accommodate it, but any additional flows would be a problem.

Ms. Burns also had a tree come down into her property. The trees on that steep rocky slope are not deeply rooted.

Mr. Wheltle described 15 years ago, when another son of Ann Stiles, lived in the house, he constructed the present deck which is larger than the original and cantilevered over the previous footing. Also at the time, the bituminous berm at the street was installed at the curb of Coolidge Rd.

Mr. Wheltle is also requesting that a landscaping and maintenance plan that addresses invasives be included (bittersweet, garlic mustard, euonymus). The old trees should be cared for, diseased ones replaced, etc.

Mr. Wheltle is also concerned about any future fencing, out buildings, enclosed parking or seeing a profile of the proposed deck.

Mr. Wheltle submitted an older wetland delineation that was never filed with the Commission (done by Gosselin, 2008) that shows wetlands even further up the hill than that proposed by LEC in this submission.

The applicants asked if they could proceed with work to replace the roof and also install dormers on the front of the house. Mr. Tirone volunteered to inspect the erosion controls prior to any allowance to work on the house. A site walk was scheduled for Monday 8/10 at 5:30pm.

DWhite/Connors motioned to continue the hearing to 8/20 at 8:30pm; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stevens left the meeting and Mr. White acted as chair.

Commission Business, cont.:

The Commission discussed the **Symmes** conservation land and conditions for approving the estoppel letter and Baseline report. JWhite/Nonni motioned to approve and sign the estoppel letter; motion passed unanimously. Connors/JWhite motioned to approve and sign off on the Baseline report; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Tirone asked if Ms. Beckwith had received any **field reports** from the Rt 2, 3, 16 intersection project or the construction work at Lake St near Rt 2. Ms. Beckwith

reported that she had not received any information on those two items. Mr Tirone suggested that contacting the conservation commissions in Cambridge and Belmont would be a good way to check on that.

**Volunteer project policy** – DWhite provided a revised draft for further discussion at our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Corinna Beckwith  
Commission Administrator